

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPACE SCIENCE BOARD

17 August 1959

Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr.  
Professor and Chairman  
Department of Epidemiology  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Dr. Francis:

I was delighted to learn from Keffer Hartline of your willingness to serve on his Committee on the Biological Aspects of Space Science of the Space Science Board. Both Hartline and I have found the biological aspects of Space Science among the most difficult to treat. There are a number of good committees in the field of "man-in-space" and related matters, and Dr. Cannon of NRC is cooperating in making the data from these committees available to the Board. There is, however, a problem in evaluating the diverse work in the field. More important are three other aspects of the space biology program:

- a) Biological experimentation unique to space.
- b) Contamination of the moon and planets upon landing (and equally, back contamination on return.)
- c) Exploration of extra-terrestrial objects by man, and biological objectives in such exploration.

While extra-terrestrial exploration by man is still a few years away, the problem of contamination of extra-terrestrial biological forms from the Earth is immediate and is receiving attention from Lederberg. Both physicists and biologists are interested in extra-terrestrial forms and evolutionary patterns involved, so that much study is ahead in determining the best procedures in developing extra-terrestrial exploration.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

L. V. Berkner  
Chairman

cc Hartline  
Odishaw-Peavey  
Rossi  
Lederberg

Signed in Dr. Berkner's absence